

Title 20-A: EDUCATION
Chapter 315: ADULT EDUCATION

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Maine Revised Statutes
Title 20-A: EDUCATION
Chapter 315: ADULT EDUCATION

§8601. PURPOSE

Since education is a lifelong process, it is declared to be the policy of the State to provide and encourage the growth of educational opportunities and, where applicable, to ensure career, citizenship and college readiness for all adults. [2007, c. 131, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1981, c. 693, §§5,8 (NEW). 2007, c. 131, §1 (AMD).

§8601-A. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [1991, c. 518, §33 (NEW).]

1. Adult education. "Adult education" means an education program primarily operated for individuals beyond the compulsory school age that is administered by school administrative units through a career pathways and service system and that, except as provided in section 8602-B, includes intake, assessment, advising, instruction and individual learning plans; is guided by data management and analysis, annual monitoring and annual professional development plans; uses appropriately certified staff; is designed to meet identified local needs; makes use of partnerships and alignment with workforce development, postsecondary institutions and support services; and offers at least 3 of the following:

- A. Basic literacy instruction or instruction in English as a Second Language; [2011, c. 517, §1 (NEW).]
- B. High school completion courses; [2011, c. 517, §1 (NEW).]
- C. College transition courses; [2011, c. 517, §1 (NEW).]
- D. [2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §1 (RP).]
- E. Enrichment courses; [2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §1 (AMD).]
- F. Adult workforce training and retraining; and [2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]
- G. Adult career and technical education. [2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

[2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §1 (AMD) .]

2. Adult education program costs. "Adult education program costs" means those costs identified in section 8607-A.

[1991, c. 518, §33 (NEW) .]

2-A. Career and technical education.

[2011, c. 517, §2 (RP) .]

3. Center. "Center" has the same meaning as in section 8301-A, subsection 3, applicable to career and technical education for secondary students.

[2007, c. 131, §2 (AMD) .]

4. Foundation year.

[2007, c. 131, §2 (RP) .]

5. Maximum allowable expenditures. "Maximum allowable expenditures" means, for state subsidy purposes, an amount not to exceed the sum of funds appropriated through taxation and expended in accordance with section 8607-A in the base year, plus the amount of subsidy paid by the State during the base year.

[2007, c. 131, §2 (AMD) .]

6. Municipality. "Municipality" has the same meaning as in section 15672, subsection 21.

[2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §28 (AMD); 2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §§72, 74 (AFF); 2005, c. 12, Pt. WW, §18 (AFF) .]

7. Parent. "Parent" means a parent, as defined in section 1, subsection 20, with legal custody of a minor child, except that "parent" of a child with disabilities means a parent as defined in the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 United States Code, Section 1401(23).

[2007, c. 131, §2 (AMD) .]

8. Region. "Region" has the same meaning as in section 8301-A, subsection 6, applicable to career and technical education for secondary students.

[2007, c. 131, §2 (AMD) .]

9. Residence. "Residence" means, with reference to a person's eligibility to receive adult education, the school administrative unit in which is located the legal residence of the person's parent if the person has not reached 18 years of age, the legal residence of the person after the person reaches 18 years of age or the legal residence of the person after the person becomes an emancipated minor. A federal reservation or installation is considered part of the school administrative unit in which it is located.

[2007, c. 131, §2 (AMD) .]

10. Unit. "Unit" means a school administrative unit.

[1991, c. 518, §33 (NEW) .]

11. Vocational education.

[2005, c. 397, Pt. D, §2 (RP) .]

12. Adult career and technical education. "Adult career and technical education" means organized educational activities, eligible for federal or state funding, that:

A. Offer a sequence of courses that provide individuals with the academic and technical knowledge and skills the individuals need to prepare for further education and for careers, other than careers requiring a baccalaureate, master's or doctoral degree, in current or emerging employment sectors; and [2007, c. 131, §2 (NEW) .]

B. Include competency-based applied learning that contributes to the academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning and problem-solving skills, work attitudes, general employability skills, technical skills and occupation-specific skills of an individual. [2007, c. 131, §2 (NEW) .]

[2011, c. 517, §3 (AMD) .]

13. Adult learners with disabilities. "Adult learners with disabilities" means individuals who have been determined eligible as students with disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act who are 16 years of age or older and under 21 years of age and who have neither received a regular high school diploma nor turned 20 years of age during the prior school year; individuals who are eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and individuals who are eligible under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

[2011, c. 517, §4 (AMD) .]

14. Adult workforce training and retraining. "Adult workforce training and retraining" means courses or activities eligible for state funding that serve any of the following adult learners:

A. Preparatory learners, who are adults learning new skills in preparation for employment in a job or occupation that is new to them; [2007, c. 131, §2 (NEW) .]

B. Supplemental learners, who are adults pursuing courses or activities that are related, in a clear and applicable manner, to current full-time or part-time employment or wage-earning activities; and [2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §2 (AMD) .]

C. Certificate learners, who are adults participating in a sequence of courses that provide individuals with the academic and technical knowledge and skills that individuals need to prepare for further education and careers in current or emerging employment sectors, including the skills and training and work credential programs conducted under the auspices of the boards of the local workforce investment areas designated pursuant to the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Public Law 105-220, and the department. [2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §2 (AMD) .]

D. [2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §3 (RP) .]

[2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §§2, 3 (AMD) .]

15. Base year. "Base year" has the same meaning as in section 15672, subsection 1-B.

[2007, c. 131, §2 (NEW) .]

16. Basic literacy instruction. "Basic literacy instruction" means instruction, based on individual needs and goals, for adults whose skills in reading, writing, numeracy, speaking or listening are below the grade 12 level. It includes adult basic education and English as a Second Language instruction described in the State's plan for the implementation of the federal adult education program and adult literacy and English as a Second Language instruction provided with state and local funding.

[2007, c. 131, §2 (NEW) .]

17. College transition course. "College transition course" means a course to support adults with high school diplomas who are not academically prepared to take college courses.

[2007, c. 131, §2 (NEW) .]

18. Enrichment course. "Enrichment course" means a noncredit course provided under the supervision of an instructor and in accordance with a course outline identifying instructional goals for its participants. "Enrichment course" does not include offerings for the sole purpose of recreation.

[2007, c. 131, §2 (NEW) .]

19. High school completion course. "High school completion course" means a course that is aligned with the system of learning results established in accordance with section 6209 and includes general educational development preparation courses for the Maine high school equivalency diploma.

[2007, c. 131, §2 (NEW) .]

20. Instructional supplies. "Instructional supplies" means those supplies that fulfill the purpose of a specific instructional program and, during the teaching process, are actually consumed or worn out through use, or lose their identity through fabrication or incorporation into different or more complete units or substances. Instructional supplies do not include those items that result in a product or service for the student for which lab or materials fees may be assessed, or those items that result in a product or service for the unit, region or center.

[2007, c. 131, §2 (NEW) .]

21. Student with disabilities. "Student with disabilities" has the same meaning as "child with a disability" as defined in section 7001, and any such students are included under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 United States Code, Section 1400, et seq.

[2007, c. 131, §2 (NEW) .]

22. Career pathways services.

[2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §4 (RP) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 518, §33 (NEW). 2005, c. 2, §D28 (AMD). 2005, c. 2, §§D72,74 (AFF). 2005, c. 12, §WW18 (AFF). 2005, c. 397, §§D1,2 (AMD). 2005, c. 397, §D3 (REV). 2005, c. 519, §I3 (AMD). 2007, c. 131, §2 (AMD). 2011, c. 517, §§1-6 (AMD). 2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §§1-4 (AMD).

§8602. RULES

The commissioner may adopt rules to establish requirements for adult education courses, to establish procedures for approving adult education courses offered by units, regions or centers and to otherwise carry out the purposes of this chapter. [1991, c. 518, §34 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1981, c. 693, §§5,8 (NEW). 1991, c. 518, §34 (AMD).

§8602-A. COURSES; APPROVAL

Adult education courses may be offered by units, regions or centers with the approval of the commissioner. [1991, c. 518, §35 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 518, §35 (NEW).

§8602-B. REGIONS

Notwithstanding the other provisions of this chapter, a region may be reimbursed under section 8607-A, subsection 2 if it offers adult career and technical education courses and may be reimbursed under section 8607-A, subsection 9 if it offers adult workforce training and retraining courses. To be eligible for

reimbursement for courses offered under section 8607-A, subsection 2 or 9, a region must perform intake and data management functions in the same manner as a school administrative unit as provided under section 8601-A, subsection 1. [2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §5 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §5 (NEW).

§8603. AUTHORITY TO RAISE, APPROPRIATE, RECEIVE AND EXPEND MONEY

A unit may: [1991, c. 518, §36 (AMD).]

1. Fund adult education and educational activities. Raise, appropriate, receive and expend money for adult education and educational activities. Adult education and educational activities are under the direction and supervision of the school board; and

[1991, c. 518, §36 (AMD) .]

2. Fund tuition costs. Raise, appropriate, receive and expend money to pay tuition charged to any resident of a municipality served by the unit who attends an adult education course offered by another unit, if the adult education course is not offered by the unit that serves the person's residence.

[1991, c. 518, §36 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1981, c. 693, §§5,8 (NEW). 1991, c. 518, §36 (AMD).

§8603-A. WARRANT TO RAISE, APPROPRIATE, RECEIVE AND EXPEND MONEY

1. Warrant language. In order to fund adult education and educational activities and tuition costs under section 8603, a school administrative unit must use the following warrant language at a duly called special or regular meeting or city election:

"Article: To see if (the school administrative unit) will appropriate \$..... for adult education and raise \$..... as the local share; with authorization to expend any additional, incidental or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program."

[2007, c. 599, §2 (AMD) .]

2. Approval. Approval of the warrant must be by majority vote of those voting in the school administrative unit's legislative body budget meeting or election.

[2007, c. 599, §2 (AMD) .]

3. Effect on multiple school administrative units. If more than one school administrative unit is participating in the adult education program, the appropriation line must be the total adult education budget for all the units participating and the amount to be raised must be that specific school administrative unit's share of the total amount to be raised by local taxation.

[2007, c. 599, §2 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2007, c. 131, §3 (NEW). 2007, c. 599, §2 (AMD).

§8604. AUTHORITY TO OPERATE PROGRAMS NOT RECEIVING STATE SUBSIDY

A unit, region or center may make available facilities for adults for day and evening educational and recreational activities not reimbursable by the State. These courses and activities may be financed by tuition fees, by funds made available by the unit, by funds from other sources or by a combination of these. [2007, c. 131, §4 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1981, c. 693, §§5,8 (NEW). 1991, c. 518, §36 (AMD). 2007, c. 131, §4 (AMD).

§8605. ELIGIBILITY

1. General right. The following persons may attend adult education courses offered by a unit, region or center in accordance with that entity's published program criteria and admission standards:

A. A person who is not yet 17 years of age who has withdrawn from school under the provisions of section 5001-A, subsection 2, paragraph B; [1991, c. 518, §37 (AMD).]

A-1. A person who is 17 years of age or older and who is not attending a public school; or [1991, c. 518, §37 (NEW).]

B. [1991, c. 518, §37 (RP).]

C. A secondary school student enrolled in a public day school program, if that student's attendance at an adult education course is designed to supplement the student's regular day school program and if attendance is in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner. [1991, c. 518, §37 (AMD).]

Notwithstanding paragraphs A and A-1, a person who is not yet 18 years of age may be issued a state high school equivalency diploma only in compliance with the requirements established for such persons by section 257.

Priority to enroll in any adult education course offered by a unit, region or center must be given first to residents of municipalities served by that unit, region or center.

[1991, c. 518, §37 (AMD) .]

2. Secondary school age person count; subsidy; tuition. A secondary school age person who is not attending a public school and who is enrolled in an adult education course must be treated for state subsidy and tuition purposes as follows.

A. Such a person who enrolls in a semester adult education course, is counted as .1 of a student for each such course. [1991, c. 518, §37 (AMD).]

B. The unit in which such a person resides must be reimbursed in accordance with chapter 606-B. [2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §29 (AMD); 2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §§72, 74 (AFF); 2005, c. 12, Pt. WW, §18 (AFF).]

C. If a unit in which a person resides does not offer an adult education course appropriate for such a person, the person may enroll in an adult education course offered by another unit or private school, subject to the approval of the sending unit's superintendent. The sending unit shall pay tuition to the receiving unit in an amount no greater than .1 of the present per student subsidy allocation for secondary students in the sending unit. [1991, c. 518, §37 (AMD).]

[2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §29 (AMD); 2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §§72, 74 (AFF); 2005, c. 12, Pt. WW, §18 (AFF) .]

3. Transfer student. The following provisions apply to the transfer of a student who has not attained 20 years of age from one school administrative unit to another for the purposes of state subsidy when the student is not attending a public school and is enrolled in an adult education course.

A. The transferor superintendent and the transferee superintendent may approve the transfer of a student from one school administrative unit to another if they find that the transfer is in the student's best interest and the student is in agreement with that finding. If the student has not attained 18 years of age and is not an emancipated minor, the student's parent must approve of the transfer. [2005, c. 151, §2 (NEW) .]

B. When a student has been denied a transfer under paragraph A, the student or the parent of a student who has not attained 18 years of age may request from the commissioner a review of the denial. The commissioner shall review the decision and may approve or disapprove the transfer. The commissioner's decision is final and binding. [2005, c. 151, §2 (NEW) .]

C. A superintendent shall review annually any transfers made into or out of that superintendent's school administrative unit under this subsection. [2005, c. 151, §2 (NEW) .]

D. For purposes of state subsidy, a student transferred under this subsection is considered a resident of the school administrative unit to which the student is transferred. The superintendent of the receiving unit shall certify to the commissioner any transfer approved under this subsection when reporting to the department the number of adult education students who have not attained 20 years of age. [2005, c. 151, §2 (NEW) .]

[2005, c. 151, §2 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1981, c. 693, §§5,8 (NEW). 1983, c. 806, §70 (AMD). 1989, c. 415, §32 (AMD). 1991, c. 518, §37 (AMD). 1995, c. 665, §J1 (AMD). 2005, c. 2, §D29 (AMD). 2005, c. 2, §§D72,74 (AFF). 2005, c. 12, §WW18 (AFF). 2005, c. 151, §2 (AMD).

§8606. REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1981, c. 693, §§5,8 (NEW). 1987, c. 395, §A79 (RP). 1987, c. 496, §1 (RP).

§8606-A. REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES

1. Definitions.

[1991, c. 518, §38 (RP) .]

2. Budget recommendation. Prior to December 15th of each year, the commissioner shall certify to the Governor and to the Bureau of the Budget the funding levels for the various program categories in adult education for payment in the next fiscal year. The commissioner shall include these funding levels in the department's request to the Legislature for appropriations from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

A. The recommended funding level must include funds in an amount that is sufficient to provide for state administration of adult education programs including funds for the cost of general educational development tests and administration; supporting volunteer literacy programs; state-sponsored professional development; state-level data collection, including the required software for units, regions or centers providing adult education programs; and reimbursement of the costs listed in section 8607-A

at the rates established in that section. The recommended funding level may not exceed the maximum allowable expenditures in the base year, adjusted pursuant to paragraph C. [2011, c. 517, §7 (AMD).]

B. A unit, region or center shall provide the commissioner with information requested by the commissioner to carry out the purpose of this chapter. The commissioner may withhold state subsidy payment or a portion of the state subsidy payment from a unit, region or center if the unit, region or center does not provide requested information to the commissioner in compliance with the specified format, content and time schedule established by the commissioner. [2007, c. 131, §5 (AMD).]

C. The recommendation in the commissioner's funding level certification must include local adult education program cost adjustment to the equivalent of the year prior to the year of allocation. This adjustment is calculated according to the same guidelines established, for purposes of chapter 606-B, by section 15689-C, subsection 3. [2005, c. 12, Pt. D, §1 (AMD).]

[2011, c. 517, §7 (AMD) .]

3. State reimbursement. State reimbursement for expenditures on adult education programs must be based on each unit's, region's or center's actual adult education program costs in the base year.

A. The state reimbursement must be based on the unit's, region's or center's expenditures for the base year in accordance with the maximum allowable expenditures and the local program cost adjustment to the equivalent of the year prior to the year of the allocation. [2007, c. 131, §5 (AMD).]

B. State reimbursement must be paid to each eligible unit, region or center during the 2nd quarter of the State's fiscal year. [2007, c. 131, §5 (AMD).]

[2011, c. 517, §8 (AMD) .]

4. Action by Legislature. The Legislature shall appropriate the necessary funds to meet the State's obligation for reimbursement of adult education program costs as provided in this section.

[1991, c. 518, §38 (AMD) .]

5. Rule-making authority.

[1991, c. 518, §38 (RP) .]

6. State administration.

[2007, c. 131, §5 (RP) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 395, §A80 (NEW). 1987, c. 496, §2 (NEW). 1987, c. 769, §A62 (RPR). 1991, c. 518, §38 (AMD). 1991, c. 528, §I3 (AMD). 1991, c. 528, §RRR (AFF). 1991, c. 591, §I3 (AMD). 1993, c. 349, §49 (AMD). 1995, c. 368, §C1 (AMD). 2005, c. 2, §D30 (AMD). 2005, c. 2, §§D72,74 (AFF). 2005, c. 12, §D1 (AMD). 2005, c. 12, §WW18 (AFF). 2007, c. 131, §5 (AMD). 2011, c. 517, §§7, 8 (AMD).

§8607. REIMBURSEMENT RATES

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1981, c. 693, §§5,8 (NEW). 1987, c. 496, §3 (RP).

§8607-A. REIMBURSEMENT RATES

Reimbursement for the following costs are made in the year following the incurring of those costs, and the rates are as follows. [2007, c. 131, §6 (AMD) .]

1. Administrative costs. Administrative costs for all adult education courses and educational activities listed in section 8601-A, subsection 1 are reimbursed at the rate of 70% of the costs, so long as at least one basic literacy, high school completion or college transition course is offered. Administrative costs include administrative, supervisory and clerical salaries and fringe benefits as required for salaried positions; the costs of maintaining and operating citizens' advisory committees; administrative travel to state meetings related to administering adult education courses and educational activities; the costs of operating and maintaining a state-approved data collection system; and the costs of administering state-approved assessments other than the general educational development tests.

[2007, c. 131, §6 (AMD) .]

2. Adult career and technical education courses. Adult career and technical education courses provided in compliance with this chapter, if state-funded, are reimbursed at the rate of 75% of the cost of required instructional salaries and fringe benefits for those courses and 50% of the cost of instructional supplies and textbooks used in those courses.

[2007, c. 131, §6 (AMD) .]

3. Courses for students with disabilities and adult learners with disabilities. Courses for students with disabilities and adult learners with disabilities are reimbursed at the rate of 75% of the cost of required instructional salaries and fringe benefits for those courses and 50% of the cost of instructional supplies and textbooks used in those courses.

[2007, c. 131, §6 (AMD) .]

4. High school completion courses that are aligned with the system of learning results. High school completion courses that are aligned with the system of learning results established in accordance with section 6209 are reimbursed at the rate of 75% of the cost of required instructional salaries and fringe benefits for those courses and 50% of the cost of instructional supplies and textbooks used in those courses.

[2007, c. 131, §6 (AMD) .]

5. Basic literacy instruction. Basic literacy instruction is reimbursed at the rate of 75% of the cost of required instructional salaries and fringe benefits for those courses and 50% of the cost of instructional supplies and textbooks used in those courses.

[2007, c. 131, §6 (AMD) .]

6. General adult courses.

[1991, c. 591, Pt. I, §4 (RP) .]

7. Other administrative costs. Other administrative costs, including program promotion and related publicity, mailing and postage and telephone expenses for courses and programs described in subsections 2 to 5, 8 and 9, are reimbursed at the rate of 50% of these costs. The cost of interpreters for deaf students and deaf adult learners and the cost of translators for students and adult learners with limited English proficiency are reimbursed at the rate of 75% of these costs but only as a payment of last resort after the otherwise valid obligations of insurers or other 3rd parties to provide or pay for these services have been exhausted.

[2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §6 (AMD) .]

8. College transition courses. College transition courses are reimbursed at a rate of 75% of the cost of required instructional salaries and fringe benefits for those courses and 50% of the cost of instructional supplies and textbooks used in those courses.

[2007, c. 131, §6 (AMD) .]

9. Adult workforce training and retraining courses. Adult workforce training and retraining courses are reimbursed at the rate of 75% of the costs of required instructional salaries and fringe benefits for those courses and 50% of the cost of instructional supplies and textbooks used in those courses.

[2007, c. 131, §6 (NEW) .]

10. Career and academic advising and counseling. Career and academic advising and counseling services costs are reimbursed at the rate of 75% of the costs of required salaries and fringe benefits for those services.

[2013, c. 460, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 496, §4 (NEW). 1991, c. 518, §39 (AMD). 1991, c. 528, §I4 (AMD). 1991, c. 528, §RRR (AFF). 1991, c. 591, §I4 (AMD). 2005, c. 397, §D3 (REV). 2005, c. 519, §I4 (AMD). RR 2007, c. 1, §10 (COR). 2007, c. 131, §6 (AMD). 2013, c. 167, Pt. C, §6 (AMD). 2013, c. 460, §1 (AMD).

§8608. TEACHER EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1981, c. 693, §§5,8 (NEW). 1983, c. 806, §71 (AMD). 1991, c. 518, §40 (AMD). 2007, c. 131, §7 (RP).

§8609. FEES FOR ADULT EDUCATION

Fees for adult education are as follows. [1991, c. 518, §41 (AMD).]

1. Registration fee. A unit, region or center shall establish a registration fee schedule for adult education courses and determine the use of those registration fees.

[2007, c. 131, §8 (AMD) .]

2. Laboratory and materials fees. A unit, region or center may charge a person attending an adult education course a fee to cover the cost of laboratory supplies and materials used in such a course.

[2007, c. 131, §8 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1981, c. 693, §§5,8 (NEW). 1991, c. 518, §41 (AMD). 2007, c. 131, §8 (AMD).

§8610. ADULT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1981, c. 693, §§5,8 (NEW). 1983, c. 806, §72 (AMD). 1991, c. 518, §42 (RP).

§8611. TRANSPORTATION

A unit, region or center may provide transportation for adults to and from adult education courses. [2007, c. 131, §9 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1981, c. 693, §§5,8 (NEW). 1991, c. 518, §43 (AMD). 2007, c. 131, §9 (AMD).

§8612. OTHER SUPPORTS

A unit, region or center that provides adult education shall ensure that adult education students are provided, when applicable, information regarding and referral to other state departments and agencies that provide support to adult education students, including, but not limited to, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor. [2007, c. 131, §10 (NEW).]

Nothing in this section relieves a school administrative unit of its legal responsibility for the education of students with disabilities. [2007, c. 131, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

2007, c. 131, §10 (NEW).

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